

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 04609 042003Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 /078 W
-----042901 050442Z /13

R 041945Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8946
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4609

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: BH, GT, CS
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER'S BELIZE COMMENTS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. LOCAL MEDIA HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT
COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT DANIEL ODUBER'S RESPONSES IN UK TO
PRESS QUERIES ON BELIZE. ACCORDING TO PRO-GOVERNMENT
EXCELSIOR OCT. 1, ODUBER STATED AT PRESS CONFERENCE SEPT. 30
THAT COSTA RICA IS IN FAVOR OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE "AFTER
NEGOTIATIONS TERMINATE IN A PEACEFUL AGREEMENT". (ARTICLE
TITLED: ODUBER FAVORS BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE.)

2. SIMILAR AMBIGUITY WAS REPORTED AFTER ODUBER'S SEPT. 29
MEETING WITH PM CALLAHAN. ACCORDING TO LA NACION, ODUBER
STATED THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION MUST BE ACHIEVED IN RESPONSE
TO GUATEMALA'S CLAIMS BUT WITH RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF
THE BELIZEAN PEOPLE. EXCELSIOR'S REPORTING OF ODUBER'S
COMMENTS WAS ALMOST VERBATIM. END UNCLASSIFIED
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3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: THE GOCR'S PROBLEM
IN THE BELIZE MATTER IS HOW TO SATISFY EVERYBODY. THEY
HAVE NOT REALLY BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT -- LEAST OF ALL
THE GUATEMALANS -- AND THEY ARE UNCOMFORTABLE IN THEIR
DILEMMA. STATEMENTS SUCH AS ODUBER'S (AND THOSE OF
FACIO A FEW WEEKS AGO WHICH HE LATER "CLARIFIED") LEAVE

THE GOCR OPEN TO CHARGES THAT THEY ARE ON ALL SIDES OF
THIS ISSUE. THE OPPOSITION MEDIA ESPECIALLY, IN RECENT
EDITORIALS AND EDITORIAL CARTOONS, HAVE TAKEN PARTICULAR
PLEASURE IN POINTING OUT THE INCONSISTENCIES. END
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Message Attributes

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